

Canada Law Journal.

VOL. XXXVII.

JUNE 1, 1901.

NO. 10.

Some persons seem to have a political or constitutional objection to the title of Emperor or Empress being assumed by an English monarch. When the late Lord Beaconsfield proposed the addition of the title of "Empress of India" to our late beloved Queen's title the proposition was regarded with some suspicion, and as being of doubtful propriety. Englishmen have a just and proper objection to absolutism in all its forms, and it is because the title of "Emperor" has been, and is to-day, associated with the worst forms of absolutism that it is, not unnaturally, regarded as a title inappropriate to a constitutional monarch. But it may be doubted whether the words Empire and Emperor have in truth any meaning inconsistent with the constitutional character of the English monarchy. May they not be regarded as indicating that the country and sovereign so styled is subject to no external paramount earthly power or authority whatever? That, at all events, seems to have been the opinion of our forefathers at a momentous period of English history, when the State was asserting its supremacy within its own domains, as it had done many times before, when it was solemnly declared by Parliament that "by dyvers sundrie olde autentike histories and cronicles it is manifestly declared and exp^osed that this realme of England is an impire, and so hath been accepted in the worlde governed by oon supreme heede and King, having the dignitie and royall estate of the imperiall crowne of the same, unto whome a body politike compacte of all sortes and degrees of people divided in termes and by names of spirituallie and temporalitie, ben bounden Howen to bere next to God a naturall and humble obedience; he beyng also institute and furnysshed by the goodnes and sufferance of Almyghtie God with plenarie, hoole and intiere power pemynence authoritie, progatyve and jurisdiction to rendre and yelde justice and finall determynacion to all man of folke resieautes or subjectes within this his realme in all causes maters debates and contencions happening to occurr insurge or begyne within the limittes therof without restraynt or pvocacion to any foreyn princes or potentates of the world," etc.: see preamble 24 Hen. VIII. c. 12. See also 1 Eliz. c. 1, where the crown of England is styled "the imperiall crowne of this realme."